

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

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R 011112Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7023

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2296

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KU TC MU BA QA

SUBJ: KUWAITI FONMIN'S TRIP TO LOWER GULF AND OMAN

REF: KUWAIT 2203

SUMMARY: KUWAITI FONMIN SABAH TOLD ME HE HAD URGED SULTAN QABUS TO MOVE AROUND OMAN MORE, VISIT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND BUILD UP HIS IMAGE AMONG PEOPLE AND SULTAN RESPONDED WELL. SULTAN CRITICIZED GOK POLICY OF AID TO PDRY AND WAS UNIMPRESSED BY ARGUMENT AID WAS TO SHOW ALTERNATIVE TO COMMUNIST HELP. AS RESULT, SABAH SENT SAQQAF TO PDRY TO SEEK EXPLANATION OF PDRY INTEREST DHOFAR AND SUPPORT OF DHOFAR REBELS. END SUMMARY

1. FURTHER TO HIS REMARKS TO ME JUNE 23 (REFTEL) KUWAITI FONMIN SABAH SAID HE HAD LIKE SULTAN QABUS FROM THE START, AND THE TWO HAD GOTTEN ALONG GETHER FAMOUSLY. QABUS' OPEN AND RECEPTIVE MANNER HAD EMBOLDENED SABAH TO ADVISE HIM NOT TO REMAIN IN SALALAH
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BUT TO MOVE ABOUT COUNTRY MORE. QABUS' REPLY HAD BEEN HE WOULD

LIKE TO BUT EVERY SUCH TOUR EXPOSED HIM TO FLOOD OF PETITIONS
FROM LOCAL POPULACE, DEMANDS HE COULD NOT POSSIBLY MEET.

2. SABAH SAID HE HAD COUNTERED THAT SULTAN SHOULD NOT GIVE
IMPRESSION HE TRYING AVOID HIS PEOPLE
BUT INSTEAD PUBLICIZE HIS
ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS, AND PAY PERSONAL VISITS TO DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS AROUND COUNTRY. RADIO OMAN, A MODERN AND EXPENSIVE
FACILITY, COULD BE MUCH BETTER UTILIZED FOR THESE PURPOSES THAN
WAS THE CASE TO DATE. KEY POINT WAS TO BUILD PERSONAL IMAGE AMONG
THE PEOPLE. QABUS RESPONDED WELL TO THIS COUNSEL. SABAH SAID HE
HAD IMPRESSION QABUS MEANT WELL, TRYING HARD, AND HAD MAKINGS OF
GOOD RULER.

3. SABAH SAID QABUS HAD CRITICIZED KUWAITI POLICY OF ASSISTANCE
TO PDRY WHICH, REGARDLESS OF FORM AID TOOK, SERVED TO STRENGTHEN
SOUTH YEMENI PRESSURE AGAINST OMAN AS WELL AS NORTH YEMEN AND
SAUDI ARABIA. SABAH SAID HE HAD TRIED EXPLAIN THAT AID WAS
HUMANITARIAN ONLY AND DESIGNED SHOW PDRY THERE WAS ALTERNATIVE
TO DEPENDENCE ON COMMUNIST STATES. SABAH FOUND QABUS UNIMPRESSED
BY THIS ARGUMENTATION. ONE RESULT OF QABUS' STRONG FEELINGS ON
MATTER, SABAH SAID, WAS THAT KUWAITI MINISTRY CHIEF OF ARABIAN
PENINSULA AFFAIRS SAQQAF WAS BEING DISPATCHED TO ADEN WITH MESSAGE
TO PDRY PRIME MINISTER FROM KUWAITI PM ASKING FOR EXPLANATION
FOR PDRY'S INTEREST IN DHOFAR AND PURPOSE OF ITS SUPPORT FOR
DHOFAR REBELS.

4. I CONGRATULATED SABAH ON HIS FRANK EXCHANGE WITH QABUS;
SUCH GIVE AND TAKE AMONG GULF RULERS BOUND TO LEAD TO BETTER
UNDERSTANDING, COOPERATION AND THEREFORE STABILITY AND SECURITY
OF REGION.
STOLTZFUS

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